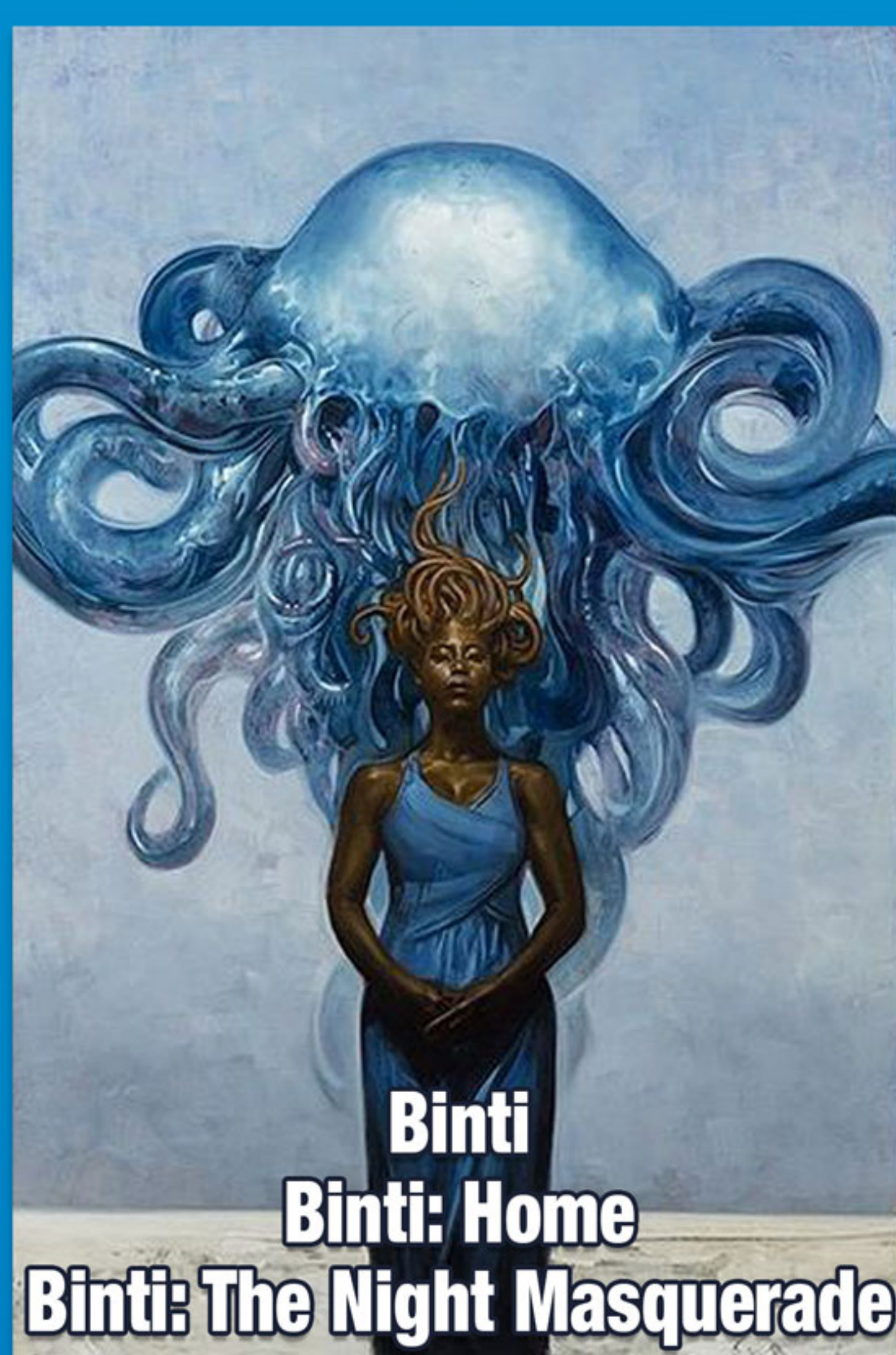


# A LOOK IN A BOOK

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## **“The Binti Series” by Nnedi Okorafor**

**Reviewed by:  
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Science Fiction is a genre where possibility is as limitless as time and space, and works within this genre have the ability to draw you in and make you question how you would react if you were placed in these scenarios.

In Nnedi Okorafor’s “Binti Series,” the reader is drawn into Binti’s life. Binti is a sixteen-year-old girl who has left her family and friends behind to attend the prestigious intergalactic university, Oomza University. Binti’s people, the Himba, never leave their planet, and she is the first to do so. Her decision to leave what she has known behind demonstrates a strength that Binti must tap into later as she faces imminent threats.

Throughout the series, Binti is unsure of herself, and it doesn’t help that she is frequently reminded of how different she and her people are from the other planetary groups. Her journey and story evolves over the course of the three novellas: “Binti,” “Binti: Home,” and “Binti: The Night Masquerade.”

After Binti’s encounter with the Meduse in the first novella, her life is forever changed. The life and information she knew before is called into question and she struggles to come to terms with this shift inside of her. The second novel picks up a year after the incident. Binti struggles to maintain her newly-acquired gifts and those she learned from home, and her studies suffer. This is amplified as she decides to visit her home. The third and concluding novella sees that while some tensions towards the Meduse has lessened, there are those, like the Khoush, who still have a steady hatred towards them. Binti remains at the center of this conflict and must work to prevent a major war from coming to fruition.

This Hugo and Nebula award-winning novella series is a quick, impactful read. I do wish that the books were longer or that the series was a little longer. I wanted to see more of Binti’s world. I would recommend it to those who are fans of Sci Fi. It would also make a great introduction to the genre for those who are curious about Science Fiction, but aren’t sure where to start. The series alludes to generational and culture issues, as well as the power of understanding and communication. Binti learns to embrace her identity in the face of adversity, and she becomes a warrior of her own destiny.